AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The below listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1 – 34 (Canceled).

35. (Currently Amended) A system for recovering an embolic protection device which includes a guide wire and expandable filter disposed thereon from a body vessel, comprising:

an inner catheter having a distal portion and a proximal end and being moveable along the guide wire, the distal portion including a length of flexible tubing;

a control handle attached to the proximal end of the inner catheter;

a recovery sheath having a distal end and a proximal end; and

a control handle attached to the proximal end of the recovery sheath, wherein the inner catheter is capable of being loaded inside the recovery sheath with the distal portion of the inner catheter extending distally beyond the distal end of the recovery sheath when the inner catheter and recovery sheath are placed in a delivery position and being advanced along the guide wire for placement in proximity to the expandable filter of the embolic protection device, the recovery sheath having sufficient column strength to collapse the expandable filter when advanced over the expandable filter, wherein the longitudinal length of ~~and~~ the distal portion of the inner catheter which extends distally out of ~~has sufficient length to allow~~ the distal end of the recovery sheath is at least 3 centimeters ~~to track thereover to reduce the possibility that the recovery sheath will straighten the body vessel when deployed in a curved portion of the body vessel~~.

36. (Original) The system of claim 35, wherein:

the recovery sheath may be up to 15 centimeters shorter than the inner catheter.

37. (Original) The system of claim 35, wherein:

the recovery sheath has greater column strength than the inner catheter.

38. (Original) The system of claim 35, wherein:

the inner catheter has greater column strength than the recovery sheath.

39. (Original) The system of claim 35, further including:

a locking mechanism for locking the control handle of the inner catheter with the control handle of the recovery sheath.

40. (Original) The system of claim 35, wherein:

the control handle of the inner catheter can be locked with the control handle of the recovery sheath.

41. (Original) The system of claim 35, wherein:

the control handle of the inner catheter is coaxially disposed within a lumen of the control handle of the recovery sheath.

42. (Original) The system of claim 41, wherein:

the control handle of the inner catheter can be locked with the control handle of the recovery sheath.

43. (Original) The system of claim 42, wherein:

the control handle of the inner catheter is movable relative to the control handle of the recovery sheath.

44. (Original) The system of claim 35, further including:

means for locking the inner catheter onto the guide wire.

45. (Currently Amended) An embolic protection system for deployment in a body vessel, comprising:

a guide wire having a distal end;

an expandable filter located near the distal end of the guide wire;

an inner catheter having a distal portion and a control handle located at a proximal end, wherein the inner catheter is capable of being introduced over the guide wire and the distal portion includes length of flexible tubing; and

a recovery sheath having a distal end and a control handle located at a proximal end, wherein the inner catheter is capable of being loaded inside of a lumen of the recovery sheath, wherein the distal portion of the inner catheter extends distally beyond the distal end of recovery sheath when placed in a delivery position and being advanced along the guide wire to retrieve the expandable filter, the recovery sheath having sufficient column strength to collapse the expandable filter when advanced over the expandable filter, wherein the longitudinal length of ~~and~~ the distal portion of the inner catheter which extends distally out of ~~has sufficient length to allow~~ the distal end of the recovery sheath is at least 3 centimeters ~~to track thereover to reduce the possibility that the recovery sheath will straighten the body vessel when deployed in a curved portion of the body vessel~~.

46. (Original) The system of claim 45, wherein:

the recovery sheath may be up to 15 centimeters shorter than the inner catheter.

47. (Original) The system of claim 45, wherein:

the recovery sheath has greater column strength than the inner catheter.

48. (Original) The system of claim 45, wherein:

the inner catheter has greater column strength than the recovery sheath.

49. (Original) The system of claim 45, further including:

a locking mechanism for locking the control handle of the inner catheter with the control handle of the recovery sheath.

50. (Original) The system of claim 45, wherein:

the control handle of the inner catheter can be locked with the control handle of the recovery sheath.

51. (Original) The system of claim 45, wherein:

the control handle of the inner catheter is coaxially disposed within a lumen of the control handle of the recovery sheath.

52. (Original) The system of claim 51, wherein:

the control handle of the inner catheter can be locked with the control handle of the recovery sheath.

53. (Original) The system of claim 52, wherein:

the control handle of the inner catheter is movable relative to the control handle of the recovery sheath and further including means for locking the control handles together.

54. (Currently Amended) A method of recovering an embolic protection device which includes a guide wire and an expandable filter from a body vessel, comprising:

loading an inner catheter inside a recovery sheath, wherein the inner catheter has a distal portion which extends beyond the distal end of the recovery lumen when placed in a delivery position, the distal portion including a length of flexible tubing at least 3 centimeters which extends outside of the recovery sheath in the delivery position ~~having sufficient length to allow the distal end of a recovery sheath to pass thereover to reduce the possibility that the recovery sheath will straighten the body vessel when deployed in a curved portion of the body vessel~~;

introducing the inner catheter and recovery sheath in the delivery position over the guide wire;

advancing the distal end of the inner catheter to a position adjacent to the expanded filter;

locking the inner catheter onto the guide wire;

tracking the recovery sheath over the distal portion of the inner catheter and the expanded filter to collapse the expanded filter.

55. (Original) The method of claim 54, further comprising:

removing the recovery sheath, inner catheter, and embolic protection device from the body vessel.

56. (Original) The method of claim 54, wherein:

the recovery sheath may be up to approximately 15 centimeters shorter than the inner catheter.

57. (Original) The method of claim 54, wherein:

the distal portion of the inner catheter may extend up to 10 centimeters beyond the distal end of the recovery sheath when being advanced over the guide wire.

58. (Original) The method of claim 54, wherein:

a control handle is located at the proximal end of the inner catheter and a control handle located at the proximal end of the recovery sheath.

59. (Original) The method of claim 58, wherein:

the control handle of the inner catheter can be locked to the control handle of the recovery sheath.

60. (Original) The method of claim 54, wherein:

after the distal end of the inner catheter is advanced to a position adjacent to the expanded filter, a torque control device is attached to the guide wire and placed in an abutting relationship with the proximal end of the inner catheter to lock the inner catheter onto the guide wire.

61. (Original) The method of claim 58, wherein:

after the distal end of the inner catheter is advanced to a position adjacent to the expanded filter, a torque control device is attached to the guide wire and placed in an abutting relationship with the control handle of the inner catheter to lock the inner catheter onto the guide wire.

62. (Original) The method of claim 58, wherein:

control handle of the recovery sheath is advanced distally to position the recovery sheath over the distal portion of the inner catheter and the expanded filter to collapse the expanded filter.

63. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 35, wherein:

the recovery sheath is adapted to track over at least a portion of the flexible tubing of the distal portion of the inner catheter.

64. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 35, wherein:

the flexible tubing of the distal portion of the inner catheter is more flexible than the recovery sheath.

65. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 45, wherein:

the recovery sheath is adapted to track over at least a portion of the flexible tubing of the distal portion of the inner catheter.

66. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 35, wherein:

the flexible tubing of the distal portion of the inner catheter is more flexible than the recovery sheath.

67. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54, wherein:

the recovery sheath is adapted to track over at least a portion of the flexible tubing of the distal portion of the inner catheter.

68. (Currently Amended) An embolic protection system for deployment in a body vessel, comprising:

a guide wire having a distal end;

an expandable filter having a particular longitudinal length located near the distal end of the guide wire;

an inner catheter having a distal portion and a control handle located at a proximal end, wherein the inner catheter is capable of being introduced over the guide wire and the distal portion includes a length of flexible tubing at least al long as the longitudinal length of the expandable filter; and

a recovery sheath having a distal end and a control handle located at a proximal end, wherein the inner catheter is capable of being loaded inside of a lumen of the recovery sheath, wherein the distal portion of the inner catheter extends distally beyond the distal end of recovery sheath when placed in a delivery position and being advanced along the guide wire to retrieve the expandable filter, the recovery sheath having sufficient column strength to collapse the expandable filter when advanced over the expandable, wherein the longitudinal length of ~~and~~ the distal portion of the inner catheter which extends distally out of ~~has sufficient length to allow~~ the distal end of the recovery sheath is at least 3 centimeters ~~to track thereover to reduce the possibility that the recovery sheath will straighten the body vessel when deployed in a curved portion of the body vessel~~.

69. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 68, wherein:

the recovery sheath may be up to 15 centimeters shorter than the inner catheter.

70. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 45, further including:

a locking mechanism for locking the control handle of the inner catheter with the control handle of the recovery sheath.

71. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 45, wherein:

the control handle of the inner catheter can be locked with the control handle of the recovery sheath.

72. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 45, wherein:

the control handle of the inner catheter is coaxially disposed within a lumen of the control handle of the recovery sheath.

73. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 51, wherein:

the control handle of the inner catheter can be locked with the control handle of the recovery sheath.

74. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 52, wherein:

the control handle of the inner catheter is movable relative to the control handle of the recovery sheath and further including means for locking the control handles together.